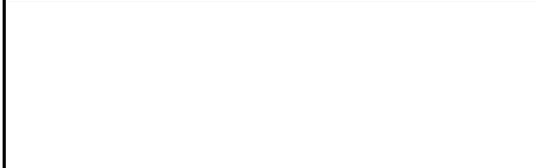


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19 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: WIR 20-54: Probable Outlook in Western Europe over the Next Decade

DOCUMENT NO. 20

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BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was authorized by the IAC at the request of the Board of National Estimates. It follows a series of estimates on the major countries of Western Europe and was designed to present a survey of the outlook for the area as a whole.

SUBSTANCE

2. Besides the usual contributions from the IAC agencies, this paper has had the benefit of discussion by [redacted]. It was originally scheduled to precede WIR 100-54: Probable Effects of Increasing Nuclear Capabilities upon the Policies of the Allies, but in February it became clear that the estimate on the outlook for Western Europe over the next decade would depend to a considerable degree upon the nuclear paper. Consequently, the nuclear paper was completed first.

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3. The topics on which discussion centered in meetings with agency representatives were (a) the prospects for the development of a healthy economy in Western Europe during the next decade; (b)



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and (c) the strength of the armed forces of Western Europe and the value of these forces as a deterrent to Soviet aggression.

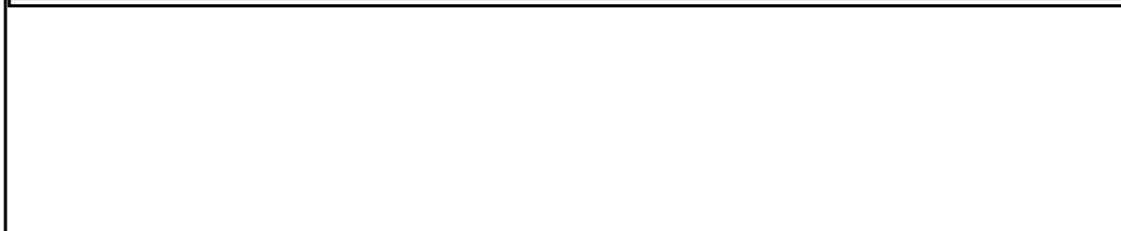
4. Agreement was reached on all these points in the course of our meetings and at present I know of no dissents or significant changes to be brought up at the IAC meeting by participating agencies.



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Acting Chairman

Reading Room : [redacted]

Board of National Estimates

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